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Letter dated 28 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In response to the contents of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) (S/2008/601), my Government has instructed me to reiterate the statement which I made on its behalf to the Council at its 5976th meeting on 19 September 2008, for the information of the members of the Security Council and for circulation as a document of the Council.

The Council may recall that Chad, through me, pointed out that certain passages of the above-mentioned report do not accurately reflect its viewpoints on the question of an extended MINURCAT operation with a military component.

It was for this reason that we requested further consultations with a view to defining together with the Secretariat a suitable arrangement for the effective implementation of its mandate, which, it should be recalled, is essentially humanitarian, namely:

- To protect civilians in danger, particularly refugees and displaced persons.
- To facilitate the supply of humanitarian assistance by helping to improve security in the zone of operations.
- To protect United Nations personnel, local residents, installations and equipment, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and related personnel, including Chadian personnel.

The Government of Chad wishes to recall the understanding that this operation is not a conventional peacekeeping one implying some kind of "neutrality", "impartiality" or "good offices" within the framework of any type of peace agreement. Its main objective was to respond to the hopes for security placed in it by the humanitarian organizations that were at the origin of the appeal for this operation and by the affected populations in eastern Chad, refugees, displaced persons and host civilian populations.

We also wish to point out that, among other things, paragraphs 66 and 83 of the report are inopportune, insofar as the provisions they contain complicate the mandate of the Mission, and that mediation efforts and political and peace agreements exist within other well known frameworks with which the United Nations is associated.

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Moreover, while reiterating its agreement in principle for the deployment of a United Nations military component to take over from the European Union-led military force in Chad and the Central African Republic (EUFOR), the Government of Chad considers that the references to the so-called Brahimi reports for its concept are inappropriate, particularly with regard to the definition of its mandate, troop levels and composition, especially since these reports have never been the object of agreement between Chad and the Secretary-General.

Following the latest visit to N'Djamena by the Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Le Roy, consultations were held between United Nations and Chadian experts to reach agreement on a new concept, including a troop level of approximately 3,000, not including an increase in the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) to 1,700 troops. The new force should be better equipped than EUFOR to effectively implement its mandate through greater mobility and equipment and weapons that are better suited to deal with threats and through reductions in troop levels in Abéché and increases in Am Timan.

The Government of Chad reiterates its desire to fully cooperate with the Security Council in the accomplishment of the noble mission of the United Nations in eastern Chad to maintain peace and security in the Central African subregion, in particular, and for the maintenance of peace and security throughout the world in general.

(*Signed*) Ahmad **Allam-mi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative